

As you are aware, the Congressional Study Groups are the premier international projects administered by the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress, and they are the most active and substantive bipartisan exchange involving the U.S. Congress and legislative branches of another country.

Mr. Shoenig has been an integral part of the Study Group's outstanding success for almost six years. He worked tirelessly to enable Members to have a productive and fruitful dialogue with colleagues in the legislatures of Germany, Japan, Turkey, and the E.U. His effective leadership has resulted in the creation of a network of colleagues who have an avenue of discourse, so that the many important international issues that affect our constituencies can be addressed in a constructive and positive manner.

In addition to expressing the appreciation of my colleagues in Congress, I wish to add that on a personal note, it has been a great pleasure working with Andy over the past six years during my chairmanship of the Congressional Study Group on Germany. He is an exceptional professional who has delivered to Members an incredibly valuable and effective service. He is leaving Washington to earn his Master's Degree in Public Administration at the University of North Carolina, and we wish him much success as he pursues this new opportunity.

HONORING CLEOPATHIA MOORE-BELL

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor West Modesto/King Kennedy Neighborhood Collaborative Executive Director Cleopathia Moore-Bell, who has announced her retirement after numerous years of dedicated service.

In addition to being a founding member of the Christ Unity Baptist Church in 1991, Ms. Moore-Bell took the initiative to create the Stanislaus Multicultural Community Health Coalition/West Modesto King Kennedy Neighborhood Collaborative. She pioneered this movement because she felt the need to captivate and motivate community residents to become more involved with refining the community's health. Thanks to her dedication to her community, this movement was able to serve as a blueprint for the Stanislaus County Public Health's involvement with Partnership for the Public's Health (PPH). From the partnership with PPH, Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) was born. Through this, Ms. Moore-Bell was once again able to become an active participant engaging in all aspects of health care, community, and government, unifying them to plan a strategy on how to tackle critical health and safety affairs in communities.

Ms. Moore-Bell continues to be committed to her community by advocating for the improvement of health for children and families. Specifically, she focuses on assisting low-income and multicultural populations. She currently serves on the Chief Executive Office (CEO) Stewardship Council for "Focus on Prevention," which is a project designed to draw

a spotlight on homelessness, strengthening families, increasing education attainment, and improving health.

It is evident that Cleopathia has a passion to go above and beyond in her field. Her work exemplifies a spirit that is full of joy, optimism, and progress and inspires all who worked with her to create a better community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Cleopathia Moore-Bell for her many years of service, devotion, and outstanding contributions to public health in her community. We wish her continued success in her retirement.

HONORING REV. PATRICK OLIVER LINDSEY FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE AS LEAD PASTOR OF GREATER BIBLEWAY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleagues, Representatives DEBBIE DINGELL and BRENDA LAWRENCE, to recognize the outstanding service that Rev. Patrick Oliver Lindsey has provided to the Greater Bibleway Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan, over the past 25 years.

For years, this church has been a pillar in the Detroit community, providing more than just spiritual guidance. At the helm has been stalwart lead Pastor Lindsey, who has served tirelessly to ensure the needs of his congregation are met. In June 1992, when Pastor Lindsey assumed the pastorate, he was charged with cultivating the congregation's spiritual growth and development, while overseeing the implementation of the ministry's strategic plan and directing the administration of the church's ecclesiastical and business affairs. Pastor Lindsey successfully spearheaded Phase 1 of the church's building project—a complete renovation of the existing facilities, and he founded the Rev. CJ Henderson Scholarship, which provides students with financial support in their pursuit of higher education.

Pastor Lindsey has been a tireless servant, not only to his church, but to the entire Detroit Metropolitan Community. Pastor Lindsey volunteers his time to serve in a multitude of leadership roles in community organizations such as: Vice Moderator of the Pleasant Grove Baptist District Association, Board Chair of Community-in-Schools of Metropolitan Detroit, and is a board member of the Urban League of Detroit and Southeast Michigan. He is also a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and the University of Michigan Alumni Association.

Pastor Lindsey was born to Deacon John (deceased) and Ida Lindsey, and raised on the eastside of Detroit. He was educated in Detroit and Highland Park Public School systems and matriculated to the University of Michigan where he graduated in 1981 with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. He is married to another spiritual servant, his wife Kathy, and they have two wonderful children: Kendall (a junior at University of Michigan) and Kaylyn (a sophomore at Wayne State University).

Pastor Lindsey currently serves as Vice President of Government and Community Af-

fairs at Wayne State University. In this position, he oversees the federal and state affairs offices, which support the University's goals and strategic plan by working with key stakeholders to ensure adequate funding for the institution's more than 27,000 students enrolled in its 13 schools and colleges.

As you can see, Pastor Lindsey's reach has no bounds. His is truly, first of all, a servant of all. On Saturday, June 10, 2017, he will be honored by the Greater Bibleway Missionary Baptist Church. Today, we urge our colleagues to join us in honoring Pastor Lindsey's selfless leadership in the church and in his community over the past 25 years.

RECOGNIZING CARMELLA SABAUGH

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude to Carmella Sabaugh, who retired from her position as Macomb County Clerk at the beginning of this year. This week she is being honored for her 40 years of distinguished public service.

Carmella Sabaugh began her public career in 1975, when as a young mother of 5 children she was elected to the Warren City Council. She was elected as Warren City Clerk in 1979, a position she held for 11 years, and in 1992, she was elected as Macomb County Clerk. She was subsequently re-elected as County Clerk five times, and chose not to run again in 2016.

As Macomb County Clerk, Carmella was singularly focused on providing model customer service, and worked with her office's team of committed public employees to introduce innovations which made citizens' interactions with the Clerk's office as simple as possible. During Carmella's 24 years as Clerk, her office received 65 Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo). These awards highlight innovative programs instituted at the local level, and the programs are shared with clerks around the country as models they can look to as they seek to improve their own operations.

Among her many accomplishments, Carmella and her team made it easier for people to register and exercise their right to vote, created programs to help prevent real estate and other fraud, brought innovations to the operation of the jury room at the Macomb County Circuit Court, and created county photo ID cards for veterans and a program to help veteran's survivors access benefits. And over the years, as new technology and other ways to improve the operation of the Clerk's office became available, Carmella made sure that her office never stopped innovating. Two examples related to awards the Clerk's office received from NACo help to illustrate Carmella's commitment to using new advances to modernize her office, even if that advance replaced something which just a few years earlier had been recognized as a best practice. In 2010, the County Clerk's office received an award for providing jurors waiting to be called for duty to receive pagers so that they could be notified that they were due in court. In 2016, the office received an award for using

text messages to do the same thing. And in 2005, the Macomb County Clerk's office was recognized for providing free bus rides to jurors, while in 2016, they received an award for providing jurors with Uber rides to the court.

Those who know Carmella Sabaugh well, as I do, know that her excellence in public service is matched by the quality of her friendship. In the many years I have known her, I have deeply appreciated her warmth, kindness, and generosity of spirit.

Mr. Speaker, Carmella Sabaugh provided the people of Macomb County with truly outstanding service for 40 years. I encourage my colleagues to join me in expressing deep appreciation for all she has done, and in wishing her well in retirement.

HONORING JERRY THATCHER

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a very special Kentuckian, Mr. Jerry Thatcher.

Mr. Thatcher spent 34 years as an educator in Bath County, Kentucky. He taught at Bethel Elementary and Bath County Middle School. He served as assistant principal at Owingsville Elementary School and as principal at Crossroads Elementary School. Mr. Thatcher also coached soccer, basketball, and tennis and sponsored the Beta Club and many science fairs. He was passionate about education and was a lasting influence on countless lives.

Following his retirement in 2016, Mr. Thatcher became involved in the Kentucky Patriot Guard Riders. While returning from his third mission, he tragically lost his life in an accident. He is survived by his wife Melanie, two sons, and two grandchildren. In memory of his exemplary life, a stretch of US 60 between two of the schools he served is being named the "Jerry Thatcher Memorial Highway."

Mr. Thatcher was a passionate educator, dedicated family man, follower of Christ, and patriotic American. I am honored to recognize the life of Mr. Jerry Thatcher before the United States House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MEREDITH SHARP

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor a young student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Meredith Sharp of Springfield has just been named one of the top honorees in Missouri by The 2017 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Ms. Sharp is being recognized for raising over \$13,000 to provide new athletic shoes for all 311 students at a local elementary school in a low-income area of Springfield. She cre-

ated a nonprofit organization called "Just for Kicks," then began seeking donations in person and by mail from relatives, neighbors and business leaders. While she had hoped to collect enough money to buy shoes for one class of kids, she had collected enough for an entire school in just a matter of months.

It's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution this young citizen has made. Young volunteers like Ms. Sharp are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past 22 years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and has honored more than 115,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national level.

Ms. Sharp should be extremely proud to have been singled out from the thousands of dedicated volunteers who participated in this year's program. I wish Ms. Sharp luck with all her future endeavors, and urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on this momentous achievement.

VICTORIA MCCOLLUM

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Victoria McCollum for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Victoria McCollum is a student at Arvada West High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Victoria McCollum is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Victoria McCollum for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

LT. COL. AND STAFF

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize United States Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Molly Nelson and her entire Veterans Affairs staff. Lt. Col. Nelson is a Doctor in the Missouri VA Clinic and has dedicated

her life to healing and helping veterans who have risked their lives for our country.

Lt. Col. Nelson and her staff continuously go the extra mile for our veterans to make sure they get immediate and effective care. I am honored to share my gratitude and respect for this Missouri Clinic and their dedication and compassion are an inspiration to us all.

HONORING THEA MEI LEE, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR THE AFL-CIO ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleagues, PETER A. DEFazio, DEBBIE DINGELL, KEITH ELLISON, MARCY KAPTUR, BARBARA LEE, SANDER M. LEVIN, JAMES P. MCGOVERN, BILL PASCRELL Jr., MARK POCAN, and ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT. It is our honor to join the many family, friends, and colleagues in extending our deepest thanks and appreciation to Thea Mei Lee, as she marks her retirement as Deputy Chief of Staff at the AFL-CIO.

Over the past twenty years, Thea has made an indelible impact on the AFL-CIO, fighting for trade and economic policies for working families that would promote shared prosperity and sustainable growth. Thea began working for the AFL-CIO in March 1997 as the Assistant Director for the Trade Task Force, and was subsequently promoted to the positions of Director of Public Policy, Chief International Economist and Deputy Chief of Staff.

Thea led the fight against harmful trade agreements and policies negotiated in a manner damaging to working people's interests, including the North American Free Trade Agreement, the Central American Free Trade Agreement, Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China, the World Trade Organization; the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement, the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, the U.S.-China BIT, and many others.

Her work was instrumental to the defeat of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas, and the Multilateral Investment Agreement—harmful trade agreements that would have advanced profits over people and the planet.

She has testified on behalf of America's working people before both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. And, she has contributed valued work to the conversation around fair trade, including co-authoring A Field Guide to the Global Economy.

She has often made the case for a fair and inclusive economy—eloquently and passionately on the PBS News Hour, CNN, Good Morning America, and NPR's All Things Considered among others. In 2013, she was named a "Top Lobbyist" by The Hill.

Thea has fought to ensure that all workers around the globe are treated with dignity and afforded fundamental labor rights as recognized by the International Labor Organization. And, she has mobilized workers, helping turn out thousands of working people to protest unjust WTO policies at "The Battle in Seattle."

The AFL-CIO sets a national standard in the fight for working Americans, in large part